Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)				
)				
2007 Eligible Services	List for)	CC Docket	No.	02-6
Universal Service Fund	Mechanism)			
for Schools and Librar:	ies)				

Reply Comments from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (filed August 14, 2006)

Re: Comments made on the 2007 Eligible Services List related to Video Scheduling

The schools and libraries of the State of Alaska have participated in Universal Service Funding since the inception of the E-Rate program. The invaluable support of this program has allowed the development of robust networks and reliable connectivity for the most remote of our rural applicants.

Among the most valuable services afforded with the help of the E-Rate funding is interactive video for the provision of distance learning. This type of programming is not an add-on or enrichment curriculum for many of our bush districts, but absolutely necessary for the delivery of basic curriculum. School districts with many tiny village schools (as small as 18 or 19 students) cannot supply qualified teachers for even basic classes for all necessary grades. Interactive video fills the need for educationally relevant classes delivered from central locations within a district or from educational partners within the state.

The scheduling component of the video service is an integral part of the service and is totally necessary for the operation of the video systems. Rather than a "calendaring" service, such as making appointments with the humans involved, the scheduling components provide connections across multiple types of systems, translation when necessary for connectivity and an ordered approach to transmitting into many varied locations.

The State of Alaska EED strongly agrees with the Arkansas Department of Information Systems and the Arkansas Department of Education, the Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Iowa Department of Education and General Communications, Inc., in their comments requesting that

video scheduling components of a video service be declared eligible.

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